



Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth
Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: info@horsforthschool.org

Website: www.horsforthschool.org

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

8th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by thanking you again for your positive feedback. Staff who run events and trips really appreciate it! Here is the link to the Friday letter podcast summary:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vojk0LmRKkKsJGtwsKH7ROzjmNIB1hvT/view?usp=drive_link

On another note we have been asked to consider running parents' evenings online. After COVID we were keen to get the personal element back but I do appreciate that an online evening is more convenient for many and is often quite efficient (the timings are set by the parents evening programme). If you could give us your views on this I would appreciate it, this should take 10 to 15 seconds. The google form has only two questions, the Year group of your child and "I would prefer parents' evenings to be: online/in person/I don't mind". There is no hybrid option as this is very difficult to put into practice. Our decision to stay with in- person meetings or to go online will depend on this. Even if you don't mind please respond so we can gather the biggest cross section of views as possible, you can do more than one response if you have children in different Years. Thank you!

Parent evening poll: <https://forms.gle/2mTjhg8bS3udiduX7>

Ramadan - Fasting and Physical Education at Horsforth School

As a school we fully recognise that fasting during the month of Ramadan is the fourth Pillar of Islam; an act of worship of great spiritual, moral and social significance for Muslims. We aim to be supportive and empathetic at this spiritual time.

Our procedures have been devised with reference to the following two publications: Towards Greater Understanding – Meeting the needs of Muslim pupils in state schools, Information & Guidance for Schools. The Muslim Council of Britain (www.mcb.org.uk) Safe Practice in Physical Education, Sport & Physical Activity. Association for Physical Education (www.afpe.org.uk)

- During Ramadan, all Muslim pupils will be expected with reasonable adjustments where necessary, to take part in Physical Education, for the following three reasons:
 - a) Muslims are encouraged not to use Ramadan as an opportunity to avoid aspects of normal life, but rather to cope with normal life under a different set of guidelines.
 - b) All children have an entitlement to access a meaningful PE programme that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum while seeking to respect any religious or cultural sensitivities involved wherever possible.

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- c) The Muslim Council of Britain states that “the majority of pupils who are fasting are able to take part in most physical activities during Ramadan without putting themselves at risk or danger”
- PE staff appreciate that during fasting, normal energy resources may become depleted, and the risk of dehydration is increased. As a result, PE staff will ensure that intensity levels in activities may need to be lowered to a point where fasting students may continue to participate safely, and will remain responsive to students’ needs during Ramadan.
 - PE staff and parents should encourage pupils who are fasting to speak to their PE teacher as soon as possible if they feel that the intensity level in their lesson needs reducing and PE staff will listen and adapt.
 - Parents of fasting pupils must write a note in the planner should they want a complete withdrawal from the lesson, we want to support and recognise that in certain circumstances such as menstruation for girls and illness that taking part may not be the best for health at that time. Students who do not take part will still be expected to remain in the lesson as observers or helpers.
 - If there is no request to withdraw from parents, students will be expected to take part in PE with reasonable adjustments.

Year 7 and Year 8 Homework

Our new homework system is up and running for Year 7 and Year 8 students. It has been wonderful to see so many students completing the tasks to a high standard, coming along to the homework club and using their lunch time to work on their homework in the library. I would very much appreciate you taking a couple of minutes to fill in the form below to give us your view on the new homework system.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6hr4NFDjne_YVTovISuoo2xrWq8Th4QakDogmOBapk0fnqg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Parking Safely

In the event parents or carers are picking up or dropping off children at school can we please ask that you park sensibly, safely and in accordance with any parking restrictions.

We do appreciate that the school run is busy, and that finding a parking space right next to school is a challenge, however we want to remind parents/carers not to park on the yellow lines (single or double), the zigzags in front of school or across residents' drives. This parking restriction also applies to Disabled Blue Badge holders. This parking obstructs the paths and forces students to walk on the road, it causes traffic jams as well as blocking residents' access. We open the doors at 8.00 to help ease the congestion over a 20 minute period.

Keeping our students safe is one of our top priorities and I'd like to thank everyone who supports this every day when taking and collecting students from school. We would like to encourage students, where possible, to come to school by walking, bike or scooter. The school has bike and scooter shelters on site that allow safe storage. This will help with congestion, our sustainable transport plan and promoting wellbeing and healthy lifestyle.

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One Way System

Please be aware when accessing the school car park for meetings or evening events there is a one-way system in place, please follow the arrows and signs.

Year 11, 12 and 13 Progress Review Reports

All Year 11, 12 and 13 students will receive a copy of their final full Progress Review Report next week in tutor time and will complete a variety of reflection activities based on their grades and ATL (Attitude to Learning) scores. Please ensure you have seen this – there should be a paper copy in their planner or you can access it on the Sims Parent App if you have access. If you do not currently have access to the app and would like a log in setting up please contact school at parentlogins@horsforthschool.org.

In order to support our students in their studies we have produced a booklet of useful tasks that all students can undertake for each of the subjects they study, enabling them to fill knowledge gaps or to further develop their learning and progress. We have compiled these suggestions into a 'Making Progress' booklet which will be emailed to students next week. We will not be providing paper copies of the booklet as many of the pages contain useful hyperlinks that the students need to access. Please do have a look at the booklet and discuss with your son/daughter how they can best use it to ensure they make further progress this year. The booklet will also replace the SMART targets that you will have seen on Progress Review Reports in previous years assigned to any student who was marked as D - developing in a subject (this is now marked as BT – below track).

Term Dates 2024-25

Please find below the term dates for the next academic year – these are in line with the Leeds City Council calendar. **Please be aware that Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September 2024 have already been allocated as training days and school will be closed to students meaning they will start the new year on Wednesday 4 September** – details of the timings of the day will be shared nearer the time.

We will also be allocating 3 additional training days to the calendar in due course and will share these with you when they have been finalised. Please note the final day of the academic year for all students will be Tuesday 22 July 2025.

Term	Half term starts	Half term ends
Autumn 1	Monday 2 September 2024*	Friday 23 October 2024
Autumn 2	Monday 4 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Spring 1	Monday 6 January 2025	Friday 14 February 2025
Spring 2	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 4 April 2025
Summer 1	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025
Summer 2	Monday 2 June 2025	Tuesday 22 July 2025

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World Book Day Bake/Craft Off

To celebrate World Book Day our staff and students have been getting involved in lots of activities this week. Our budding bakers and crafters got creative and entered a Bake and Craft Off! Huge congratulations to Harmeet who is the winner of the competition.



Six Word Stories

This week our students were challenged to write a story using only six words as part of their World Book Day activities. Please see some of the best entries below:

I was alone. Or was I? (Chris in Year 11)

To be strong, eat your greens. (Gabriel in Year 11)

He ran. He tripped. He fell. (Vincent in Year 11)

We have to run! He's here... (AJ in Year 8)

Emotionally, it went from 'love' to 'loved' (Josh in Year 8)

A well-made bakewell tart? Cunning. (Harry in Year 8)

Suspiciously perfect? Half intrigued, half confused... (Adam in Year 8)

I Thought he was dead. Whoops. (Izzy in Year 8)

The fish saw the propeller approach! (Arthur in Year 8)

My bed's uncomfy - it's the pea!

You can fear, whilst I rule. (Era in Year 9)

Set sail. Boats returned. Washed up. (Charlotte in Year 9)

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Nervously, she peeked over the edge.
She screamed and then she smiled. (Jess in Year 9)
In enclosure: ravenous tiger, curious child. (Safana in Year 9)
He defeated the dragon...he thought (Ava in Year 9)
Always such cheerful children. Before now (Sarah in Year 9)
Cold. Dead. Finally, Granny lay still (Rebecca in Year 9)
The bell rang, one final time (Evie in Year 9)
He blocked the sun, too big (Leo in Year 9)
The last tree... ..our last hope (Grace in Year 9)
She hoped to wake up soon (Betsy in Year 9)
Know you've always had it coming (Eric in Year 9)
Decrepit and cruel, he smiled "perfect..." (Harry in Year 9)
"No!" "I'll miss you" BANG (Sara in Year 7)
My heart froze, he was here... (Lucas in Year 7)
Mirror, mirror slowly watch him disappear (Annabel in Year 7)
Bloody body, bloody wall. My fault (Annabel in Year 7)
There was a mermaid. She drowned. (Neve in Year 7)
Eva dropped dead, and Sam smiled. (Lily in Year 7)
Mud, shovel, dirt. He cried "alive!" (Bilal in Year 7)
Closer and closer the thing came (Isla in Year 7)
Gotta go, my fish is drowning (Marley in Year 10)
Finally, my first real kiss - Grandma?! (George in Year 7)
Missing child: She bawled feeling guilty (Phoenix in Year 9)
Ready? Lights, action, camera. No batteries! (Jem in Year 9)
'Happy birthday, he smiled at stone.
She stood at the road, petrified (Meagan in Year 9)
Where's Daddy? Gunshots echoed in response.
Bullets fired! People die! Pain left! /Vest strapped, mind ready. Beep! Boom! (Henry in Year 9)
She glared at him, smiling. "Goodbye!"
She cried-mourning. Did anyone care? (Mya in Year 9)
I wasn't born for this purpose. (Will in Year 9)

Year 10 Church Visit

This week our Year 10 Religious Studies students visited the local Lister Hill Baptist Church as part of their course. Thank you to Mrs Gledhill and Miss Kay for organising the trip.



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World Book Day Fancy Dress

Staff looked fantastic today in their costumes for World Book Day!



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Manchester City Trip

Our students had a fantastic time during a successful trip to the Etihad Stadium to watch Manchester City in the Champions League on Wednesday night. The students from Years 7-12 were brilliant and a massive thanks to the staff who supported them.



Shakespeare Festival

This week some of our Year 9 Drama students performed 'Macbeth' at the Alhambra Studio in Bradford as part of the National Shakespeare Schools Festival. Thank you to Mrs Kendal for organising the trip and huge well done to everyone involved!



Ice Skating Success

India in Year 8 received a bronze medal last weekend in the Steel City Synchronised Ice-Skating trophy. There were teams from the USA, New Zealand, Canada and Wales. Congratulations India!



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School Dinner Menu

Please click on the link below to view the food on offer for the coming week.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bhifs_sr3inq4rOOaUiluHqcu60nwYkBDGjZ2xZschk/edit?usp=sharing

Come and Work at our School

[Take a look at our Vacancies webpage](#) to view the current roles we are recruiting. At the moment we are looking for someone to join us as a Receptionist/Emergency First Aider, a Site Superintendent and Minibus Driver and two Leaders of Learning for English.

You can always call the school for a chat about any of the jobs on offer on 0113 2265454. And please share with anyone you think might like to join our team.

Fixtures

Year 7 Netball

The A team came third in their group and performed fantastically as a team. The Player of the Tournament was Lilah. The B team were unlucky in their group, played well together and were great team players. The Player of the Tournament was Nora.

Year 8 and 10 Netball

The Year 8 and Year 10 girls played amazingly well against Prince Henrys and we secured two wins! Year 8 had to dig deep as they are currently in second position in the league table. Miss Schofield and Miss Lancaster really want them to place and get a medal. They worked really hard together as a team, especially as it was the first time they had played competitively together. There were some fantastic debuts on the team and we ended up winning 13-3. The Teacher's Player of the Game was Poppy (captain), and the Player of the Match was Aimee. Year 10 played against a Year 11 team and were triumphant with an extremely high scoring game. Emily and Francy did extremely well and their shooting accuracy were on point. The final score was 31-5 to Horsforth. The Player of the Match was Francy.

Year 11 Football

Year 11 beat Guiseley with a tired performance. Horsforth scored within the first minute with a strong strike from Dom. Emre made it 2-0 with a clinical finish but the squad never really kicked on from there. Special mentions go to Noah who controlled the midfield superbly and Harry for making keeping look very easy! Player of the Match was Dom for a mature, confident and skilful performance. Next up we have Benton Park in our last ever central venue with the hope of going through to the Leeds League last 8. The boys are still to find out who they will take on in the semi-final of the leagues cup.

Year 8 Football

Year 8 had two contrasting games this week. On Wednesday they played their final CV league fixture with a depleted team against a strong Benton side. Unfortunately, we came off second best suffering a heavy defeat, despite a spirited performance and a well taken goal by George. The next evening the boys were at full strength in the cup against a very strong Carr Manor side. The game was extremely tight and our boys fought for every ball and at half time Horsforth led 2-1. However, our hard work and dogged determination paid off in the second half with two excellent goals from Mylo sealing a 5-1 victory. Mylo was Player of the Match and special mention for Jacob for two goals, an assist and a rousing rendition of everywhere we go in the changing rooms after the game.

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Year 7 Football

Horsforth 3-0 Ralph Thoresby, Horsforth 0-1 Benton Park. Somehow, we lost our first league game this year. Our boys created numerous chances and dominated possession from the first minute to last. But they came against a goalkeeper that made four world class saves, much to our disbelief. Benton created one chance and scored, via a deflection. Really unlucky for our wonderful Year 7s. The Player of the Match was Henry. Hopefully they will still finish top of the league and qualify into the Leeds Super Cup Finals.

Year 7 and 8 Rugby

Fantastic display of rugby on show last night from both Year 7 and Year 8 against a rugby school Harrogate Grammar. Their teachers were impressed and the games were very competitive. Our Year 7s won 4 tries – 3 and the boys were very resilient coming from behind 3-1. Alex ran the game well and a special mention to Tom who played really well. Our Year 8s had a tough game against a big strong opponent and lost 6 tries – 1 but stayed on task and worked incredibly hard.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

ComputingLive!

Seventeen of our IT and Computing students travelled to Disneyland Paris for ComputingLive 2024! The conference included talks about AI, game development, social media and self-driving cars. There might have been a little bit of downtime too!



World Book Day

This week we celebrated World Book Day in our own special way. Martha created a fantastic cake inspired by the book *Never Let Me Go* and when everyone arrived yesterday morning a book fairy (Mrs Booth!) had hidden book gifts around the campus for our students to find!



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External Speaker

This week the Executive Director of Communications from the Bank of England visited to talk to our A Level Economics students. Having worked for the bank for nearly 30 years, James was the spokesperson for them during the early 2000's financial crisis. So, our students heard from someone with vast experience.



Yours faithfully,

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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